

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for operating a Web-based management system of a plurality of networked devices, comprising:

5 automatically collecting and analyzing networked device information from the networked devices; and

independently assembling and displaying data related to the networked device information on a distributed network.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the networked device information includes creating metrics data and the displayed data includes the metrics data.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the networked device information includes internal and external data from the networked devices.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of graphical, textual, statistical, metrics and status data is generated and presented to a user on demand.

15 5. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting and analyzing networked device information from the networked devices is automated by using a network database.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting and analyzing networked device information is executed concurrently from more than one of the networked devices.

25 7. The method of claim 1, wherein assembling and displaying the data related to the networked device information on a distributed network comprises creating at least one Web page from at least one Web object, wherein the at least one Web object is a self-contained entity with object data, an associated presentation and a state machine lifecycle.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein creating the at least one Web page uses networked device information as well as events and data from at least one other Web object.

30 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising generalizing the form of the at least one Web object as a template so that the at least one Web page is created separately.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating at least one Web page with a web page authoring tool in combination with at least one Web object,

wherein the at least one Web object is a self-contained entity with object data, an associated presentation and a state machine lifecycle.

11. A method for efficient Web-based presentation of data gathered from networked devices, comprising:

5 automatically gathering data from at least one networked device using server Web-object state transitions, events and actions independently of user interaction.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein automatically gathering data is in real-time.

10 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising ensuring integrity of at least one persistent Web object to enable accurate updating of data embedded in at least one Web page.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising manipulating a common persistent Web object using one or more front-end Web servers while maintaining
15 integrity of data in the common Web object.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising presenting simultaneous alternative views of the common Web-object.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising allowing each of a plurality of users to access the common Web object in different ways without
20 affecting the view of the other users.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising dynamically altering the appearance of a persistent Web object.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising separating the presentation of the persistent Web object from its content.

25 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising placing layout and appearance instructions for the Web object in at least one template.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising dynamically altering the appearance of a Web object in response to dynamic events.

30 21. A data presentation system for a plurality of networked devices, comprising:

a Web page formed at least in part by at least one Web object, wherein a Web object is a self-contained entity with object data, an associated presentation and a state machine lifecycle.

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25. The data presentation system of claim 21, further comprising a web page authoring tool that creates the Web page using at least one template.